THE AMAZON WARRIORS.

Having Fought the French a Company Comes to Paris on Show.

Last week the Sun contained an account of an English girl who wants her sister women to organize military her sister women to organize military companies to demonstrate how brave IMerchant Tailors and altogether deserving of independence they are. This doughty lady must be highly interested in the troupe of female warriors from Dahomey who have been performing in the Crystal Palace. They have made a three months' visit to Paris, and were visited by 900,000 persons. They are subjects of Behanzin, King of Dahomey, and belong to the famous regiments called the "Alligator" and the "Elephant," under General Dodds. Some of them display now the marks of wounds they received then in battle.

They are forty-eight in number. averaging from 18 to 20 years of age, and are under the command of a tall young negress named Goomma, whose orders they obey with military precision. Sne is accompanied by two younger sisters as officers. They are not so tall, but are among the best looking girls of the troupe. They all seem amiable and happy, but it is said they would not contentedly follow their interpreter, Mr. Hood, were it not for the presence of two fetish sorcerers who accompany them.

The girl soldiers have their curly wool closely cropped and are scrupu-lously clean. They all bathe regularly, drink only tea, and live chiefly on rice. They are very abstemious, and this gives them a splendid physique. They are as strong and as active as young leopards, and march with a springy step delightful to the eye of the drift sergeant. Their legs are naked to the knees and are well shaped. How they can march through a rough country, infested with poisonous snakes, is a mystery. Perhaps it is for this that they hold sacred a thick black snake with an intolerable odor.

They carry no baggage on the march and sleep on straw mattresses, which they fashion themselves, yet they have fine, smooth skins of dark brown, or sepia tint, and velvety to the touch. Their arms and shoulders are rounded, and, altogether, they are good specimens of one of the finest negro races in Africa. All of the Amazons smoke, but possess fine, white teeth. They delicht in or new which they call delight in oranges, which they call "sirop." They wear polished steel bangles below the knees as indication of their military rank. Quarrels are Lemonade, Soda Water, not frequent among them, and considerable affection exists between the soldiers and Goomma. Eight male cabacores or soldiers attend the Amazons to assist in the sword dances, and two of them, of huge size, act as drummers, producing the monotonous sound with which it is not always safe

to interfere. The dusky damsels must remain un married during the period of their military service, after which the king provides them with husbands from among the male warriors. They themseives spin and weave the striped cloth for the petticoat trousers they wear, and form with rude skill, the curious braces and breastplates of white shells which partly conceal the upper part of their

The First Commoner

The speaker's entertainments at the Palace of Westminster, a writer in the Tribune records, constitute quite in portant social features in the London season. The First Commoner in the Land-a title conferred by statute on the Speaker of the House of Commons several centuries ago-occupies a magnificent official residence on the river side of the Houses of Parliament, and devotes a considerable portion of his large salary to official entertainments while Parliament is in session. These entertainments take the shape of dinners and levees, at both of which the gentlemen who attend are expected to appear either in uniform or in court dress, the ordinary evening dress being strictly forbidden. The speaker him self receives his guests in a black velvet court suit, knee breeches, with sid stockings, a steel-handled sword, and beautiful lace ruffles round the neck and wrists. He is attended on such occasions by his official train-bearer (who on state occasions carries his train), his purse-bearer, his gentlemenin-waiting and his chaplain. The tab and the huge sideboards are loaded down with magnificent old plate be longing, ex officio, to the Speaker of the House of Commons; and from the walls look down the portraits of many famous "First Commoners" past an gone. The speaker takes wine wah old-fashioned grace with each of his guests in turn, while the health of the Queen is invariably proposed and drink with decorous and sincere form lity. The office of speaker carries with it, in addition to this palatial residence, a salary of \$30,000 and allowances amounting to almost as much more Moreover, it is the privilege of each retiring speaker to receive a seat in the House of Lords. It may be added that the grant of this peerage is generally accompanied by a pension of \$20,000 a year for two generations.

stepped up to the bed-side of a soldier lying in a hospital during the war, and inquired: "Well, my poor man; is there anything you want?" "No, miss, I b'leeve not." "You're sure there is nothing I can do for you?" "Nothin' I can think of." "Oh, I do want to d something for you-can't I wash your hands and face?" "Wall, if yo' want to do that, I reckin' yo' kin, but yo'll be the fo'teenth lady who's done that same thing this mo'ning, and two of 'em has washed my feet."

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